

WIRELESS INFORMATION HOME APPLIANCE SYSTEM

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

(1) Field of the invention:

5 The present invention relates to electric home appliance systems and, more particularly to a wireless information home appliance system.

(2) Prior art:

10 A regular information home appliance system, as shown in FIG. 1, comprises an information home appliance 2, and a network 1 arranged in the house and adapted to connect the information home appliance 2 to the Internet for enabling a remote electronic apparatus, for example, a personal computer, personal digital assistant, or the like to control the operation of the information home appliance 2. The information home
15 appliance 2 comprises a control circuit 20 adapted to control the operation of component parts of the information home appliance 2, a signal receiver 22, and a connector 24 connected to the network 1. The signal receiver 22 comprises a CPU 222, and a network interface 224 connected between the connector 24 and the CPU 222. The CPU 222
20 receives and demodulates packet message signal from the network 1 through the network interface 224 via the connector 24, and transmits received packet message signal to the control circuit 20, causing the control circuit 20 to control the operation of the information home appliance 2 subject to the control instruction of received packet
25 message signal. Because this information home appliance system is a wired system, complicated wiring arrangement is needed to connect the information home appliance 2 to the network 1. When changing the location of the information home appliance 2 in the house, the wiring of the network 1 must be re-arranged. Therefore, it is complicated to
30 change the location of the information home appliance 2.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides a wireless information home

appliance system, which eliminates the aforesaid problem. According to one aspect of the present invention, the wireless information home appliance system is comprised of at least one information home appliance, and a center controller. Each information home appliance and the center controller have a respective I/O circuit. The center controller is connected to the network, and adapted to automatically receive and detect signal outputted from the wireless I/O circuit of each information home appliance, to register the connection of each information home appliance to the network, and to regularly inquire the condition of each information home appliance. According to another aspect of the present invention, when received a packet message from the network, the center controller sends the packet message to the wireless I/O circuit of each information home appliance by broadcast. Upon receipt of a packet message signal from the center controller, the wireless I/O circuit of the information home appliance demodulates the packet message signal, and proceeds with the required control processing subject to the control instruction of the packet message signal if the signal matches.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a system block diagram of an information home appliance system constructed according to the prior art.

FIG. 2 is a system block diagram of a wireless information home appliance system constructed according to the present invention.

FIG. 3 illustrates the operation flow of the center controller of the wireless information home appliance system according to the present invention.

FIG. 4 shows an application example of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring to FIG. 2, a wireless information home appliance system in accordance with the present invention comprises at least one, for example, a plurality of information home appliances 4, and a center controller 5. Each information home appliance 4 comprises a wireless

I/O (input/output) circuit 3. The center controller 5 is connected to the network 6, comprising a wireless I/O circuit 7. When started, the center controller 5 automatically receives and detects output signal of the wireless I/O circuit 3 of each of the information home appliances 4, and then registers the connection of the information home appliances 4 to the network and regularly inquires the condition of the information home appliances 4. When received a packet message from the network 6, the center controller 5 immediately sends the packet message through its wireless I/O circuit 7 to the wireless I/O circuit 3 of each of the information home appliances 4 by broadcast. Upon receipt of the packet message, the wireless I/O circuit 3 of each information home appliance 4 demodulates the signal of the packet message, and judges if the signal matches or not. If the signal matches, the respective information home appliance 4 proceeds with the required control processing subject to the control instruction of the packet message. Thus, no wiring is needed to connect every information home appliance 4 to the network and, the user can control every information home appliance 4 from a remote end of the network by means of wireless transmission.

Referring to FIG. 3, according to the present invention, the center controller 5, when started, recognizes the information home appliances 4 subject to the following procedure.

(301) At first, the center controller 5 automatically receives and detects output signal of the wireless I/O circuit 3 of each of the information home appliances 4;

(302) Upon receipt of a signal, the center controller 5 judges if the signal came from the wireless I/O circuit 3 of a new information home appliance 4 or not;

(303) If the information home appliance 4 under detection is newly installed, the center controller 5 registers the PIN (personal identification number) code of the newly installed information home appliance 4 in its memory for further recognition use and then returns to step (301);

(304) If the information home appliance 4 under detection is not a new one, the center controller 5 keeps inquiring every registered

information home appliance 4 regularly and proceeding the following steps;

(305) The center controller 5 judges if the information home appliances 4 have reaction or not subject to their response signal;

5 (306) If the inquired information home appliance 4 has no reaction, the center controller 5 records the PIN code of the information home appliance having no reaction so as not to make any further inquiry, and then returns to step (301); if every inquired information home appliance 4 has a reaction, the center controller 5 returns to step (301).

10 Referring to FIG. 2 again, the basic configuration and circuit construction of the information home appliances 4 are similar to regular commercially available information home appliances. Each information home appliance 4 further comprises a control circuit 40 adapted to control every component part of the respective information home
15 appliance, and an interface 42 connected to its wireless I/O circuit 3. According to the present invention, the wireless I/O circuit 3 is adapted to receive and demodulate every packet message transmitted by the center controller 5, to judge if the signal matches or not. If the signal of a packet message transmitted by the center controller 5 matches, the
20 wireless I/O circuit 3 of the respective information home appliance 4 proceeds the required control processing subject to the control instruction of the packet message, and then transmits a response signal to the center controller 5 for recognition of the processing status.

The wireless I/O circuit 3 is comprised of a CPU 30 and a
25 wireless transmitter-receiver module 32. The CPU 30 is connected to the wireless transmitter-receiver module 32 and the interface 42 respectively, and adapted to receive signal from the control circuit 40 and to transmit received signal to the wireless transmitter-receiver module 32 for transmission to the center controller 5. The CPU 32
30 transmits control signal received by the wireless transmitter-receiver module 32 through the interface 42 to the control circuit 40, causing the control circuit 40 to control the component parts of the respective information home appliance 4.

According to the present invention, the center controller 5 is

comprised of a wireless I/O circuit 7 and a network interface 50. The center controller 5 is connected to the network 6 through the network interface 60, so as to receive signal from the remote side, and to transmit signal to the other electronic apparatus at the remote side. The wireless I/O circuit 7 of the center controller 5 is comprised of a CPU 72 and a wireless transmitter-receiver module 70. The CPU 72 receives control signal from the remote side through the network interface 50, and then transmits received signal to the information home appliances 4 through the wireless transmitter-receiver module 70. The CPU 72 also transmits response signal received by the wireless transmitter-receiver module 70 from every information home appliance 4 to the other electronic apparatus at the remote side of the network through the network interface 50.

Because the invention employs a regular wireless transmitting-receiving method to control the information home appliances 4, signal receiving and transmitting is restricted to a limited distance and tends to be blocked by partition walls. The arrangement shown in FIG. 4 eliminates these problems, i.e., a respective center controller 5 is installed in every room of the building and respectively connected to the network 6 to receive control signal from the remote side of the network 6. Because every packet message is transmitted from the network 6 to the information home appliances 4 by broadcast, the center controller 5 in every room of the building will receive every packet message from the network 6. Upon receive of a packet message, the center controller 5 in every room of the building immediately transmits the signal into the air by broadcast. Upon receive of a packet message signal, the information home appliance immediately judges if the signal matches. If the signal does not match, the information home appliance gives up the signal. Every information home appliance runs the operation control subject to the nature of the control instruction of the signal received only when the signal received is matched. By means of the aforesaid features, the invention enables the user to control all information home appliances in his (her) house from a remote side of the network.

A prototype of wireless information home appliance system has

been constructed with the features of FIGS. 2~4. The wireless information home appliance system functions smoothly to provide all of the features discussed earlier.

5 Although a particular embodiment of the invention has been described in detail for purposes of illustration, various modifications and enhancements may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. Accordingly, the invention is not to be limited except as by the appended claims.